

MIAMI HERALD
6 April 1982

U.S. grand jury indicts two as CIA impostors

By JOAN FLEISCHMAN
Herald Staff Writer

A Miami federal grand jury Monday indicted two 19-year-old men for posing as CIA agents in a scheme to trick a Miami bank into lending them \$200 million.

The six-count indictment charged Alexander Louis Medina of Dania and James J. ReMite of Hillsboro Beach with conspiracy, impersonating officers of the CIA and making false statements to a bank, Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark P. Schnapp said. Medina also is charged with wire fraud for using a telephone in the scheme, federal officials said.

The two tried to convince Charles Allen, president and board chairman of Pan American Bank in Miami, that they were undercover CIA operatives who needed a \$200-million line of credit for an official investigation dubbed "Light Power."

Medina, using the name "Alexander Talm," asked Allen to provide him with 36 checks drawn on the account of ARAMCO, a Saudi Arabian-based consortium of oil concerns, Schnapp said.

Medina said that he and an associate would come to Miami disguised as Arab sheiks to pick up the checks from Allen, Schnapp said. In the Feb. 24 telephone call, "Talm" told Allen that he could call CIA headquarters to verify the investigation.

Allen did. CIA officials suggested it was a scam, and referred Allen to the FBI.

FBI agents told Allen they would

investigate the "CIA agents," and advised Allen to continue to "play their game."

Medina proposed a March 4 meeting with Allen to pick up the checks. He said he would use a code phrase — "Praise be to Allah" — and said Allen should use a counter-code, "Light Power," Schnapp said.

"They were playing on the Arab scam theme," he said.

The FBI pulled a reverse sting on the two young men, who wore Arab burnooses and traveled in a chauffeured limousine for the meeting.

An FBI undercover officer posed as Allen, the bank president. He showed Medina and ReMite the checks, and handed them the bank-signature cards that must be filled out when opening an account. After Medina signed the card in the name of Abdul Al-Hazred, he and ReMite were arrested, Schnapp said.